

(II) ANNUALLY PUBLISH THE SUMMARY FINDINGS OF THE EVALUATION.

(2) (I) THE PURPOSE OF A COMPARABLE PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT SYSTEM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION IS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF CARE PROVIDED BY HOSPITALS AND ~~FREESTANDING~~ AMBULATORY ~~CARE~~ SURGICAL FACILITIES BY ESTABLISHING A COMMON SET OF PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS AND DISSEMINATING THE FINDINGS OF THE PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS TO HOSPITALS, ~~FREESTANDING~~ AMBULATORY ~~CARE~~ SURGICAL FACILITIES, CONSUMERS, AND INTERESTED PARTIES.

(II) IN DEVELOPING THE PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT SYSTEM, THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIDER THE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION, URBAN OR RURAL ORIENTATION, AND TEACHING OR NONTEACHING STATUS OF THE HOSPITAL AND THE ~~FREESTANDING~~ AMBULATORY ~~CARE~~ SURGICAL FACILITIES, AND THE HEALTH STATUS OF THE POPULATION SERVED.

(3) THE SYSTEM, WHERE APPROPRIATE, SHALL SOLICIT PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FROM CONSUMERS.

(4) (I) THE COMMISSION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO ESTABLISH THE SYSTEM OF EVALUATION PROVIDED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

(II) BEFORE ADOPTING REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT AN EVALUATION SYSTEM UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL:

1. ~~CONSIDER THE PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION OF HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATIONS AND APPROPRIATE ACCREDITATION ORGANIZATIONS, STATE LICENSURE REGULATIONS, MEDICARE CERTIFICATION REGULATIONS, THE QUALITY INDICATOR PROJECT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS, AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS;~~

2. EVALUATE THE DESIRABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING A CONSUMER CLEARINGHOUSE ON HEALTH CARE INFORMATION USING EXISTING AVAILABLE DATA; AND

3. ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2001, REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SUBJECT TO § ~~2-2146~~ 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON ANY PERFORMANCE EVALUATION DEVELOPED UNDER ~~SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION~~ THIS SUBSECTION.

(5) THE COMMISSION MAY CONTRACT WITH A PRIVATE ENTITY TO IMPLEMENT THE SYSTEM REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION PROVIDED THAT THE ENTITY IS NOT A HOSPITAL OR A ~~FREESTANDING~~ AMBULATORY ~~CARE~~ SURGICAL FACILITY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Health Care Access and Cost Commission shall perform its duties specified in Section 1 of this Act in consultation with the Association of Maryland Hospitals and Health Systems, the Maryland Ambulatory Surgical Association, and interested parties, including consumers, payors, and employers.